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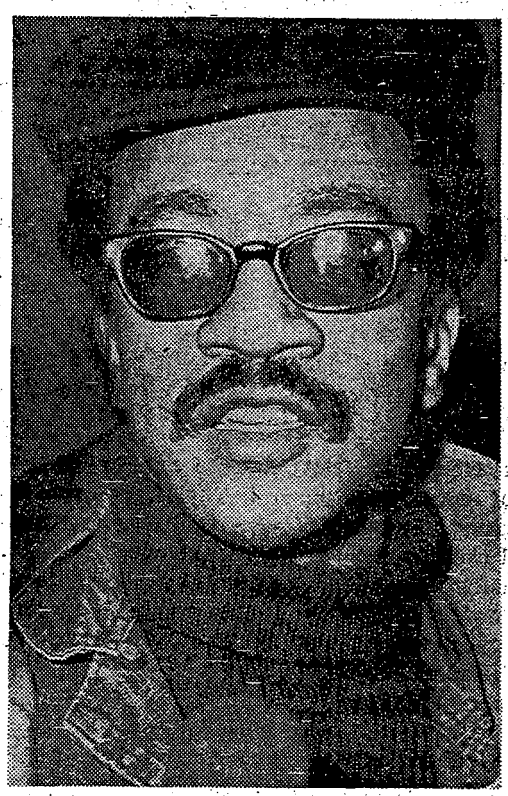
19 Sections

OBER 17, 1971 Phone 223-6000 Classified 223-6200 Circulation 223-6100 50c Beyond Washington, Maryland and Virginia 40c

Rap Brown Shot, Captured in N.Y.



H. Rap Brown as he appeared shortly before he dropped from sight in 1970.

Holdup Attempt Reported

Black Militant Had Vanished 17 Months Ago

By Stephen Isaacs
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Oct. 16—H. Rap Brown, the long-sought black militant fugitive, was shot and captured here this morning after what police said was a holdup attempt.

Brown was shot in the abdomen and was operated on for four hours at Roosevelt Hospital here. Early this evening, a hospital spokesman said Brown's condition was "fair" and said that "he seemed alert

Captured in New York

"We seized two loaded shotguns, one carbine, one .38 special revolver, one .357 magnum and one 9 MM. luger, and, interestingly, over 300 rounds of various types of ammunition. All the loot, which was in a plastic, garbage-type bag, was recovered.

William M. Kunstler, Brown's lawyer, said reports of the shooting were the first news he had of Brown's whereabouts, since Brown vanished 19 months ago.

Kunstler immediately fired off a telegram to Murphy and to New York County District Attorney Frank Hogan, insisting that Brown not be questioned unless a lawyer was at his side. Kunstler went to the hospital early last night.

He said Brown's involvement in the alleged robbery "just doesn't sound like him."

Earlier police reports this morning indicated that two men stopped in front of the bar, about to enter, when they saw the holdup in progress. One of them called police.

The first squad car to arrive was occupied by Hunt and his partner, Robert Manzi. As they got out of their car, police said, the robbers came out firing. One of the first blasts hit Hunt. His partner dragged him into the car and took him to the hospital.

As other cars arrived, they set up a roadblock at the corner of 8th Street and Columbus Avenue.

The whole incident took place in an unusually thick fog.

Apparently, as the robbers fled west on 85th, they suddenly spied the cruisers blocking the street. According to police, they sprinted into the apartment house at 102 W. 85th—the second building from the Columbus Avenue corner—and headed up the stairs.

Mannetta said three suspects, later identified as men from St. Louis and Chicago, were captured unarmed on the stairway of the 12-story apartment building.

He and an unidentified patrolman came across Brown lying face down on the roof, he said, with the magnum revolver. Mannetta said he shot Brown in the stomach, after Brown "appeared ready to fire."

Brown became a public figure in May, 1967, when, at the age of 23, he succeeded Stokely Carmichael as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Within months, he had earned a national reputation with his blunt, aggressive call for blacks to seize power and control their own destinies.

Brown went to Cambridge, Md., on July 24, 1967, and reportedly told a crowd of 400 blacks: "You should burn that school down and then go take over the honkies' school. . . .If America don't come 'round, we got to burn it down."

Hours later, parts of the Cambridge ghetto—an elementary school, a church, some shops and homes—were in ruins. On Aug. 14, 1967, Brown was indicted on charges of arson, counseling arson, riot and inciting to riot in connection with the Cambridge disorders.

He never came to trial on the charges, however, and disappeared from public sight shortly before his trial was to begin on March 11, 1970.

Brown had publicly rejected the charges made against him in Cambridge, however.

"I don't start riots," he said on more than one occasion. "Conditions do."